



The Catholic Parishes of Branxton and Singleton are part of the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle

**Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe, Year A**

**26 November 2023**

**First Reading** Ez 34:11-12, 15-17  
*A reading from the prophet Ezekiel*

The Lord says this: I am going to look after my flock myself and keep all of it in view. As a shepherd keeps all his flock in view when he stands up in the middle of his scattered sheep, so shall I keep my sheep in view. I shall rescue them from wherever they have been scattered during the mist and darkness. I myself will pasture my sheep, I myself will show them where to rest – it is the Lord who speaks. I shall look for the lost one, bring back the stray, bandage the wounded and make the weak strong. I shall watch over the fat and healthy. I shall be a true shepherd to them.

As for you, my sheep, the Lord says this: I will judge between sheep and sheep, between rams and he-goats.

The Word of the Lord **Thanks be to God.**

**Responsorial Psalm**  
**Ps 22:1-3, 5-6, R. see v.1**

**(R.) The Lord is my shepherd;  
there is nothing I shall want.**

The Lord is my shepherd;  
there is nothing I shall want.  
Fresh and green are the pastures  
where he gives me repose. **(R.)**

Near restful waters he leads me,  
to revive my drooping spirit.  
He guides me along the right path;  
he is true to his name. **(R.)**

You have prepared a banquet for me  
in the sight of my foes.  
My head you have anointed with oil;  
my cup is overflowing. **(R.)**

Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me  
all the days of my life.  
In the Lord's own house shall I dwell  
for ever and ever. **(R.)**

**Second Reading** 1 Cor 15:20-26, 28  
*A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians.*

Christ has been raised from the dead, the first-fruits of all who have fallen asleep. Death came through one man and in the same way the resurrection of the dead has come through one man. Just as all men die in Adam, so all men will be brought to life in Christ; but all of them in their proper order: Christ as the first-fruits and then, after the coming of Christ, those who belong to him. After that will come the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father, having done away with every sovereignty, authority and power. For he must be king until he has put all his enemies under his feet and the last of the enemies to be destroyed is death. And

when everything is subjected to him, then the Son himself will be subject in his turn to the One who subjected all things to him, so that God may be all in all.

The Word of the Lord **Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Acclamation** Mk 11:9-10

**Alleluia, alleluia!**  
**Blessings on him who comes in the name of the Lord!**

**Blessings on the coming kingdom of our father David!**  
**Alleluia!**

**Gospel** Mt 25:31-46  
*A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.*

Jesus said to his disciples: 'When the Son of Man comes in his glory, escorted by all the angels, then he will take his seat on his throne of glory. All the nations will be assembled before him and he will separate men one from another as the shepherd separates sheep from goats. He will place the sheep on his right hand and the goats on his left. Then the King will say to those on his right hand, "Come, you whom my Father has blessed, take for your heritage the kingdom prepared for you since the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food; I was thirsty and you gave me drink; I was a stranger and you made me welcome; naked and you clothed me, sick and you visited me, in prison and you came to see me." Then the virtuous will say to him in reply, "Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you; or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and make you welcome; naked and clothe you; sick or in prison and go to see you?" And the King will answer, "I tell you solemnly, in so far as you did this to one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did it to me." Next he will say to those on his left hand, "Go away from me, with your curse upon you, to the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you never gave me food; I was thirsty and you never gave me anything to drink; I was a stranger and you never made me welcome, naked and you never clothed me, sick and in prison and you never visited me." Then it will be their turn to ask, "Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty, a stranger or naked, sick or in prison, and did not come to your help?" Then he will answer, "I tell you solemnly, in so far as you neglected to do this to one of the least of these, you neglected to do it to me." And they will go away to eternal punishment, and the virtuous to eternal life.'

The Gospel of the Lord  
**Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**



**REFLECTION**  
**BY FR MICHAEL TATE**

*Necessities of [Eternal] Life*

The eternal destiny of every human being of a certain maturity is determined by decisions made in relation to food and drink for the famished, clothing and housing for those without decent clothing or shelter, visiting those in circumstances which cut them off from life-giving contact with others (the sick and prisoners).

Those who provide such assistance, in the words of Pope Francis, touch the wounds of Christ! A Christian can be fully conscious of this, but for non Christians it is possible to do so without any of our awareness or belief. Christ is *completely* incognito to them: 'When did we ever see you hungry and feed you ...?'

We know the doctrine of the Real Presence in the poor and marginalised. Woe betide those of us who ignore this fact of faith. We are on the way to a Hellish state of existence. That is equally possible for those who do not share our faith, but who ignore the plight of the marginalised and continue in a self-absorbed way.

We could pause for a moment to pray that we, and many billions of non-Christians, may hear the invitation: 'Come you blessed of my Father, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.'

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**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:**  
How worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and divinity, and wisdom and strength and honour. To him belong glory and power for ever and ever.

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON:**  
The Lord sits as King for ever. The Lord will bless his people with peace.

**NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURES**  
First Sunday of Advent, Year B  
**1st Reading:** Is 63:16-17, 64:1, 3-8  
**2nd Reading:** 1 Cor 1:3-9  
**Gospel:** Mk 13:33-37

**MYSTERY OF FAITH**  
*When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your Death O Lord until you come again.*

## Prayer Requests

**Sick:** Lorraine Cooper, Phuong Ho, Ron Hebbe, Austin Hoffman, Warren Markham, Jen Phillips, Olga Roberts, Cecilia Rosenthal, Selene Maree Stanholm-Atkins, Patricia Wilson and Sharon Wood. **Bring healing, comfort, and peace to their bodies. Send strength to their carers.**

**Anniversaries:** Adrian Stafa, Jane Winsor O'Keefe and Sharon Muir. **Having returned to the Father, may they rest in peace.**

**Baptisms:** Paddy and Billy Hill (Greta). **Called by name to be a child of God.**

*Due to Privacy Laws, names of the sick and deceased can only be put in the bulletin with the permission of the immediate family.*

## PARISH CONTACTS

<b>Parish Priest</b>	<b>Rev Thomas Chirackal</b>	Presbytery: 6578 9651	Email: <a href="mailto:Thomas.chirackal@mn.catholic.org.au">Thomas.chirackal@mn.catholic.org.au</a>
<b>Parish Secretary</b>	<b>Mrs Erica Janssen</b>	Parish Office: 02 5507 4048 (Tues-Fri, 9am-3pm) Unit 5, 16 Cambridge St, Singleton	Email: <a href="mailto:singleton.branxton@mn.catholic.org.au">singleton.branxton@mn.catholic.org.au</a> Web: <a href="http://www.singletoncatholicparish.org.au">www.singletoncatholicparish.org.au</a>
<b>Facebook</b>	Catholic Parishes of Singleton and Branxton	<b>Promoters of Safeguarding</b> Contact via the Parish Office	Singleton Parish: Niamh Marzol Branxton Parish: Lydia Gorczyca
<b>St Patrick's Parish PLEASE PHONE THE PARISH OFFICE FOR BOOKINGS OF PARISH CHURCHES (5507 4048)</b>			
<b>Singleton</b>	<i>St Patrick's Church</i>	Queen Street Singleton 2330	
<b>Broke</b>	<i>Immaculate Conception Catholic Church</i>	Wollombi Street, Broke	
<b>Glendon Brook</b>	<i>St. Paul's Catholic Church</i>	874 Glendonbrook Road, Glendon Brook	
<b>St Brigid's Parish PLEASE PHONE THE PARISH OFFICE FOR BOOKINGS OF PARISH CHURCHES (5507 4048)</b>			
<b>Branxton</b>	St Brigid's Catholic Church	Station St, Branxton 2335	
<b>Greta</b>	St Catherine's Catholic Church	Branxton Street, Greta 2334	
<b>Schools in our Parishes</b>			
<b>St. Catherine's Catholic College</b>	<b>Principal: Mrs Niamh Marzol</b>	K-12 Office: 02 6578 9600	Email: <a href="mailto:admin@singleton.catholic.edu.au">admin@singleton.catholic.edu.au</a>
<b>Rosary Park Catholic School</b>	<b>Principal: Miss Sallyanne Stanbridge</b>	K-6 Office: 02 4938 1541	Email: <a href="mailto:admin@branxton.mn.catholic.edu.au">admin@branxton.mn.catholic.edu.au</a>
<b>St Nicholas Early Education Singleton</b>	<b>Director: Ms Madison Keevill</b>	Office: 02 4015 2860	Email: <a href="mailto:singleton@stnicholasmn.org.au">singleton@stnicholasmn.org.au</a>
<b>St Nicholas Early Education Branxton</b>	<b>Director: Ms Alex Stafford</b>	Office: 02 4931 1220	Email: <a href="mailto:branxton@stnicholasmn.org.au">branxton@stnicholasmn.org.au</a>

## MASS ROSTER – SUNDAY 3 DECEMBER 2023

	<b>Branxton Saturday 6pm</b>	<b>Greta Sunday 8am</b>	<b>Singleton Sunday 7am</b>	<b>Singleton Sunday 10am</b>	<b>Singleton Sunday 6pm</b>	<b>Counters 9.30am Tuesday</b>
<b>Welcomer</b>	E Bendeich	D & J Clarke	C Crow	J Dries		J Woolley
<b>Commentator</b>		M Ingold	G Cattermole	<b>VOLUNTEER NEEDED</b>		
<b>Readers</b>	H Hartcher C Trunk	L Harrison	J Tindale E Thomas	T Cochrane	P Goodwin A Borg	
<b>Prayers</b>		M Ingold	C Langford	<b>VOLUNTEER NEEDED</b>	M Cunningham	
<b>Offertory</b>	M Thomas D Thomas	D & J Clarke	G Cattermole	<b>VOLUNTEER NEEDED</b>	<b>VOLUNTEER NEEDED</b>	
<b>Rosary Leader</b>		D Clarke				

*Faithful and compassionate God, your Spirit guides the Church and makes it holy; hear the prayers we offer, that in the ministry to which you have called us, may we serve you faithfully, through Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.*

## WEEKLY MASS DIARY

<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Sunday</b>
<b>27 November</b>	<b>28 November</b>	<b>29 November</b>	<b>30 November</b> ST ANDREW, APOSTLE	<b>1 December</b>	<b>2 December</b>	<b>3 December</b> FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT, YEAR b
<b>OFFICE OPEN</b>	<b>OFFICE OPEN</b>	<b>OFFICE OPEN</b>	<b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	<b>OFFICE OPEN</b>		
<u>8.00am</u> <b>Mass</b> St Patrick's Singleton	<u>6.00pm</u> <b>Mass</b> St Patrick's Singleton	<u>9.20am</u> <b>Mass</b> St Patrick's Singleton	<u>6.00pm</u> <b>Mass</b> St Patrick's Singleton	<u>9.20am</u> <b>Mass</b> <u>9.45am</u> <b>Adoration and Benediction</b> St Patrick's Singleton	<u>9.00am</u> Novena <u>9.20am</u> <b>Mass</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> Anniversary St Patrick's Singleton	<u>7.00am</u> <b>Mass</b> <u>10.00am</u> <b>Mass</b> Year 6 Rite of Passage <u>6.00pm</u> <b>Mass</b> St Patrick's Singleton
	<u>9.20am</u> <b>Mass</b> St Catherine's Greta		<u>9.20am</u> <b>Mass</b> St Brigid's Branxton		<u>6.00pm</u> <b>Mass</b> St Brigid's Branxton	<u>7.35am</u> <b>Rosary</b> <u>8.15am</u> <b>Mass</b> St Catherine's Greta

**St Brigid, St Catherine, St Patrick, and St Paul – pray for us**

# Weekly Notices

## **WELCOME TO OUR PARISH**

We welcome visitors from all faith communities to our Parish Mass. If you are new members of our Parish, we ask that you take a Welcome Pack from the back of the church, complete and return the Member forms and one of our welcoming team will contact you.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY**

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians, the Wonnarua people, who have walked upon and cared for this land for thousands of years. We acknowledge the continued deep spiritual attachment and relationship of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to this country and commit ourselves to the ongoing journey of Reconciliation.

## **SAFEGUARDING OUR CHILDREN AND VULNERABLE ADULTS**

The Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle has an abiding commitment to promote the safety, welfare and wellbeing of children and vulnerable adults. Information brochures are available in the entrance to the church. If you have any concerns for a child or vulnerable adult, contact the Office of Safeguarding 02 49791390 or [childprotection@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto:childprotection@mn.catholic.org.au) or visit [www.officeofsafeguarding.org.au](http://www.officeofsafeguarding.org.au) for more information and resources.

## **Parish Office Hours**

The Parish Office changes for the rest of the month:

OPEN Mon 27 Nov to Weds 29 Nov

CLOSED Thurs 30 Nov and OPEN Fri 1 Dec

CLOSED from 12pm Weds 6 Dec and CLOSED Friday 8 Dec

OPEN Mon 11 Dec -to Fri 15 Dec

CLOSED 25 Dec to 5 Jan (Bulletins for this period will be published on 22 December)

Thank you for your understanding and patience. Please have any items for the bulletins to the office by Wednesdays at 9.30am.

## **Parish Bereavement Teams – Expression of Interests**

Interested persons are invited to contact the Parish Office to submit an Expression of Interest for either the Singleton or Branxton Parish Bereavement Teams. Members of the Bereavement Teams tirelessly support and service people of our parish in their time of loss. They liaise with the Parish Funeral Directors when funeral arrangements are required. Ministers in the team will undertake the Stepping Stones formation program.

## **Feast of Christ the King Morning Tea**

St Patrick's Parish will celebrate the Feast of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe this Sunday with a special procession during 10am Mass followed by morning tea. All are welcome to join the celebrations.

## **St Patrick's Parish First Anniversary Mass**

The 1st Anniversary Mass will be held on Saturday 2 December 2023 at 9.20am. We will be offering Mass for the souls of **Cynthia (Sue) Wholert, Michael Wholert, Bruce Hardy, Maxine Hardy and Michael McCrone** and all those who have anniversaries in November and December.

## **St Patrick's Women's Guild Meeting**

The next meeting of the Women's Guild will be their Christmas Party and will be held on Wednesday 13 December 2023 with drinks from 11.30am in the home of Jennifer Tindale, 23 Oldknow Crescent Singleton Heights. Please enter via Wilcox Avenue. Attendees are asked to bring \$10 for lunch and a \$10 Christmas themed gift to exchange. All are welcome and we would love to see there.

## **St Patrick's Parish BBQ Lunch**

To celebrate the end of 2023 and Christmas time, St Patrick's Parish will be hosting a BBQ Lunch after 10am Mass on Sunday 10 December. Meat, salads, and bread will be provided. Please bring a plate of sweets to share. Please place your name on the noticeboard sheet to RSVP by **6 December**.

## **St Brigid's Caritas Monthly Luncheon**

The St Brigid's Caritas Christmas lunch will be held on Friday 8 December from 12pm at Miller Park. Please bring along a gift for exchanging to the value of between \$10 and \$20.

Please see Mercia for more details or contact the parish office.

## **St Columban Calendars - Singleton**

\$10 2024 St Columban Calendars and Christmas Cards are available at St Patrick's Church, Singleton. See Julie Dries.

## **The Sign: 2023 Daily Advent and Christmas Reflections**



Discover the profound spiritual journey of Advent and Christmas with **The Sign: Daily Advent and Christmas Reflections 2023** - a captivating 80-page book containing spiritually rich, yet accessible, daily reflections from the beginning of Advent (3 December 2023) through to the Baptism of the Lord (8 January 2024). Booklets are **\$5 each** payable using the envelope within the book.

## **2024 Daily Mass Book**

Copies of the 2024 Daily Mass Book are available from the Parish Office for \$30. These are an abridged version of the Sunday and Weekday Missals all in one book.

## **Advent 2023: With Anticipation and Joy**

We are called during this holy time to wait with anticipation knowing the joys of what is to come with the arrival of Christ. With Anticipation and Joy is a Diocesan resource that invites all members of the community to gather a circle of people – family, friends, colleagues, ministry teams to reflect mystagogically on the Advent Gospels and associated artworks. This is an opportunity to encounter Christ where we are, to pay attention to what Christ reveals in the scripture and the living tradition of our faith, to share this, to connect it to our life now, and to be changed by it. To access the resource, go to:

<https://www.mn.catholic.org.au/church-mission/catholic-life/liturgy/liturgical-year/>

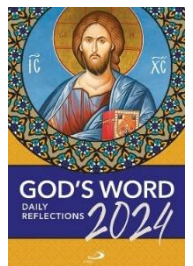
## **2024 God's Word – Daily Reflections**

Designed to help you to keep the Word of God close to your heart in your daily life. A companion on the journey to pray, to share, to grow in God's love and be nourished by the Word of God. Includes the Bible readings set down for each day, with a reflection.

**For \$15 the God's Word 2024: Daily Reflections** brings you:

- Scripture readings of the day from the Jerusalem Bible;
- Inspiring reflections by eminent Australasian spiritual writers;
- Liturgical information for the day;
- Space to note down important events and personal reflections;
- Produced in the popular flexi-cover format.

Limited copies are available at the Parish Office. Please bring \$15 cash for payment.



## **Caritas – Global Gifts Change Lives**

Say Merry Christmas with a gift that has a global impact. A Global Gift is more than just a card - it's a gift that makes a real and lasting difference to the lives of people experiencing the challenges of poverty.

A Global Gift represents a donation to Caritas Australia. Select from our range of Global Gifts and choose the amount you would like to donate. Your loved one will receive your gift, a representation of your generous donation to vulnerable communities. **Buy a Global Gift to share the gift of giving with someone special this Christmas.**

<https://www.caritas.org.au/global-gifts/>



# Month of the Holy Souls

## Mass will be offered in November for:

- Members of the Power and MacCormack families
- Members of the O'Brien & Hanlon Families
- Freda Josett and Rose Merrick
- Members of the Nowland and Dagg families
- Members of the Phipps and Hall families
- John, Maria & Stanislaw Slusarski, Wanda Dunshay
- Members of the Boyce and Burston families
- Maternidad Panogadria, Rafael Conde, Lito Abenes
- Jesus Jimenez, Maree Espiritu, Rosenda Jimenez
- Liwanag Cruz, Benjamin Cruz Sr, Benjamin Cruz Jr,
- Tetchie Cruz

November Mass offering envelopes are available at the back of the church or are included with the planned giving envelope sets. Please place these in the offertory baskets to have a Mass said during November.



Hope Tree  
Group

## Project 14: Martha's Piggery

PROJECT TARGET: \$1800 AUD



Martha is a single mother who lives in the village of Tabora in Tanzania. Her mud brick house has a roof made of leaves and other materials, and it is in poor condition.

Martha has four children. One of her children, Monika, is severely disabled. She was born healthy in 2002, but after an illness she became disabled and has been bed ridden since. She is suffering from various illnesses and her medication expensive.

Martha cares for the son of her relative. Yohane is 11 years old, and his mother is unable to look after him as she is mentally ill. She roams in the village, begging for food and money. Martha is finding it difficult to look after all the children and her disabled daughter. The only income Martha has is from work in others' fields. She grows maize and beans so that they have some food. Money to buy clothes, medicine etc comes from her work in the fields and it not enough to cover the expenses.

Marth is seeking help to start a piggery to augment her income and sustain her family. The funds needed to build a shed for the pigs and to buy piglets would be around 2800000 Tanzanian Shillings that is \$1800AUD. **Thank you to those who have already donated \$577.**

**LET'S MAKE A DIFFERENCE TO THE LIVES OF MARTHA AND MONIKA**